

# HAPPY RESURRECTION DAY!

*The* Good News  
**HE LIVES!**



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR  
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

**EASTER SUNDAY  
RESURRECTION SUNDAY  
April 20, 2025**

**The Historic African Episcopal Church  
of St. Thomas**  
6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)  
Philadelphia, PA, 19151  
(215) 473-3065  
[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw  
The 17th Rector

The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans  
Associate to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Gerald Collins  
Associate Priest



**Scan the QR code to support our church  
and our ministries.**

## **“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”**

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.  
Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this

**Easter Sunday:**

### **The Resurrection of our Lord**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., it is proudly a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Reverend Fr. Absalom Jones, was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life’s journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

Again, welcome!

Faithfully,

*Martini Shaw* +

(The Very Reverend Canon) Martini Shaw,  
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deaner

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Please click on the link provided for

6:00 AM [Order of Service](#); 10:00 AM [Order of Service](#)  
for Easter Sunday.



**ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES:**  
**Please view the important video below.**



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**An Easter wish from the Rector:**

Wishing each one of you a very holy and blessed fifty days of Easter filled with Joy and Peace.

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**The Church and Parish Administrative offices will be closed on Monday, April 21, 2025, for the Easter Holiday.**

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**AECST LIVE STREAM**

Please join us for worship on the [St. Thomas website](#), the [Live Stream Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [Youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM.

You can also watch [Past Services](#).

### **FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR:**

This is a reminder that the Mass (Service) ends following the Closing Hymn and Dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure from the Service before the conclusion. This request is being made in order to respect all gathered wishing to embrace the fullness of worship.

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### **EXPRESSION OF THANKS!**

Enormous thanks to individuals who made sacrificial donations toward both the rental of our Palm Sunday Donkey (Pretzel) and the purchase of new outdoor church banners.

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### **IMPORTANT FINANCIAL UPDATE**

March 31st ended the First Quarter of 2025.

Enormous thanks to those who are current with their yearly pledge. It is very important to assure that we remain current in order for the church to fulfill its monthly expenses. You will soon receive your First Quarter statement. Please use the month of April to catch up if you are not already current.

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**The New Members Manual has arrived.**  
Please use the [link](#) to access it.



We join our sisters and brothers  
from the Schuylkill Deanery at the  
Cathedral for the Celebration of the  
**Easter Vigil at the Philadelphia  
Episcopal Cathedral**  
**19 S 38th St, Philadelphia, PA 19104**  
During the service, there will be  
the Baptism of  
**Isidore Francis Brossa**  
April 19, 2025, 5:00 PM



## **THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE**

You are invited to a celebration and blessing of  
Holy Matrimony between our own:

**R. Seth Williams and Stacey Gail Cummings**

**Saturday, April 26, 2025, 12:30 PM**

at The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.



### **OUR CONDOLENCES TO**

the family of St. Thomas member, **Teri Ann Taylor** (cousin of Anita Smith). Her service will be at St. Thomas on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**. The viewing is from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. The service is at 11:00 AM.

Katrina Harris Marshall and family on the death of her husband, **Ralph Marshall**. His service will be at St. Thomas on **Thursday, April 24, 2025**.

The viewing is from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

The service is at 11:00 AM.

the family of **Carol Ann Roberts Keller** (former wife of Tyrone Keller). Her service will be at Enon Baptist Church on **Friday, April 25, 2025**.

The viewing is from 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM.

The service is at 10:00 AM.

May the souls of Teri, Ralph and Carol Ann rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the families.



# A Glorious Palm Sunday

## April 13, 2025
















Thank you to District 19 Police Captain Lawrence Nuble and Officers Celona and Wilson for providing an escort for our Palm Sunday Procession.

More pictures may be found on our [Facebook](#) page.





**St. Thomas Gospel Choir held their Annual  
Palm Sunday Concert  
on April 13, 2025**

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas +  
The St. Thomas Gospel Choir



**palm  
sunday  
Annual Concert**

Songs, Spirituals & Hymn's in Remembrance of  
Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



**SUNDAY APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>  
3:00PM**

Free Will Offering  
Concert Will Be Followed by a Reception

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
6361 Lancaster Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19151  
The Reverend Canon Fr. Martini Shaw, Rector  
The Reverend Fr. Daren Evans, Assistant to the Rector

For More Information - 215-473-3065





**THANK YOU to the awesome presenters for our  
Lenten Series this year.  
2025 Lenten Series Theme:  
“The Role of the Church: Post 2024 National Election”**

**Political Structure of Government**  
given by The Rev. Joe Watkins

**2024 National Election Results**  
given by Ernestine Johnson and Julio Rodriguez

**The Role of the Church during the 1960s**  
given by Arthur Sudler

**Current involvement of the Church  
and faith communities**  
given by Lisa Sharon Harper

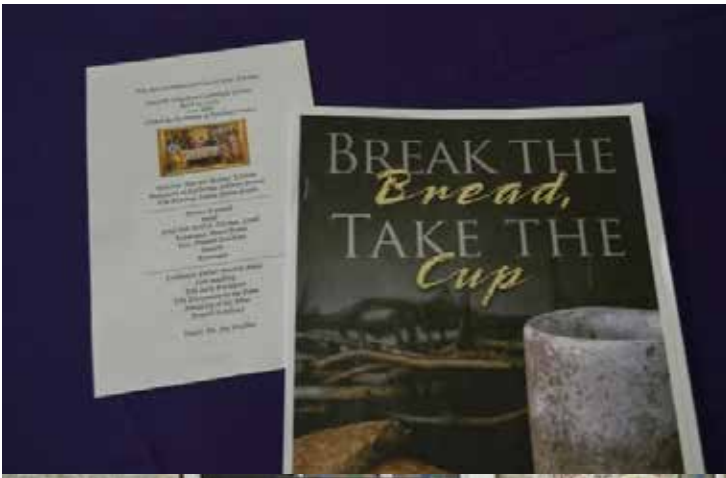
**A role for St. Thomas Post 2024 Election**  
given by Elaine Gillison and Wendella Fox



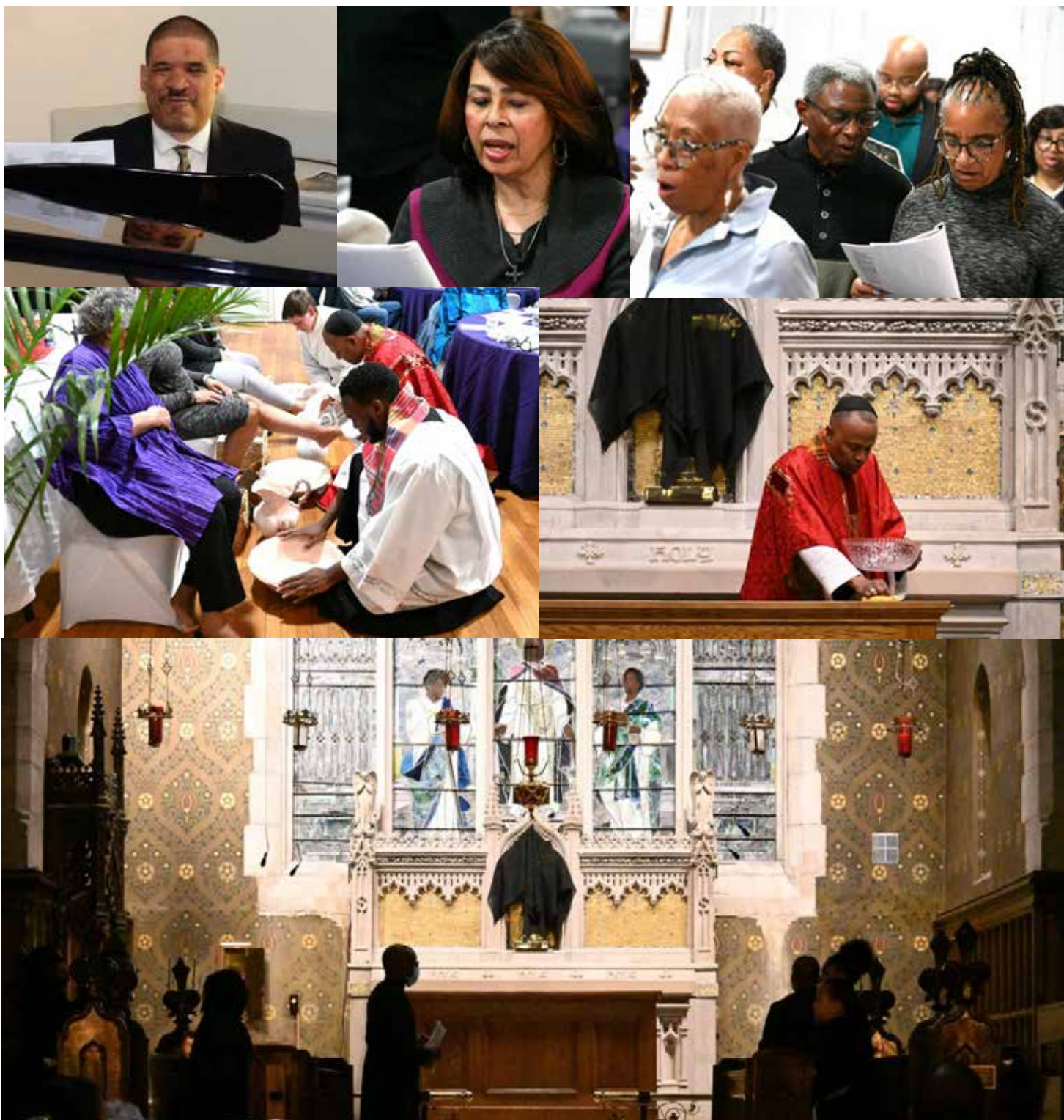
**Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday)  
April 18, 2025**

A great turnout.  
A delicious meal, Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist,  
Stripping of the altar, and the beginning of  
“The Watch” at the Altar of Repose.









More pictures may be found on [Facebook](#).

Photos: Bill Edmonds, Stephen Pugh,  
Brenda Johnson Best and Quentin Heyward  
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)



# GOOD FRIDAY SPECIAL LITURGY

**April 18, 2025**

A "Welcome Home" to the Rev Dr. Adam Hearlson and members of Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

- Stations of the Cross;
- Veneration of the Cross;
- Distribution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist







Photos: Bill Edmonds  
(St.Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

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## **ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MEMBERS AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Plans are underway to begin our New Members/  
Confirmation Classes soon. Most of these classes will be  
held via Zoom. Please watch the bulletin and Spearhead  
for further information. Please speak with Fr. Daren or  
Seminarian Kathryn Brossa if you have questions.

## **JOIN OUR PARTNERS**

The St. James School will celebrate its Annual Benefit  
on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025,**

Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum,  
6825 Norwitch Drive, Philadelphia.

You may recall that our church was one of the past  
honorees for this beautiful celebration.

This year's honorees are the former Presiding Bishop  
Michael Curry and the former owners of  
Royal Electric Supply. [Go to www.stjamesphila.org/thrive](http://www.stjamesphila.org/thrive)  
for event details and registration.

Once registered, please [email](#) Phyllis Cater, if you wish to  
sit at the St. Thomas table.



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN APRIL**

**April 20th**

Easter Sunday

Sunday of the Resurrection

6:00 AM - Sunrise Service (No music)

Celebrant: Fr. Shaw; Homilist - Fr. Evans

10:00 AM - Festive Celebration with music and dance

Celebrant and Homilist - Fr. Shaw

The Easter Bunny will make a special appearance,  
and our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will follow  
the Easter Sunday Service.

## **OUR DEDICATED OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS/FAMILIES**

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members/families of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly by various media platforms:

Constance Anderson  
**Rev. Dr. Paul Bach &  
Dr. Julie Hergerather**

Christopher Burks

Deadra Cannon

Nora Corbin

Dr. Ted Corbin

Paula Cropper

Lee Daniels

Stacey Davis

Rashid and Christie Faisal

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Bradley Hammond

Richard & Gwenda Hart

Dr. Calvin Johnson

Bettie Jones

Rae Scott Jones

Richard Jones, Jr.

Dr. Sheila Jones

Steven and Jameela Lewis

Gregory Lyles

Dr. John Rich

Richard & Rebecca Scales

Shelly and Ann Stewart

Howard Tucker

Allison Young



Each week, we feature one of our out-of-town members/families. This week, we give thanks for **THE REV. DR. PAUL BACH AND DR. JULIE HERGERATHER**, members of St. Thomas for 13 years. They say: "Neither time nor distance can separate us from the strength and hope St. Thomas provides us."



## **This Week at AECST – April 21, 2025**

### **Monday, April 21st**

~Church and Parish Office Closed~

### **Tuesday, April 22nd**

~Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting~  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

### **Wednesday, April 23rd**

~The Funeral of Teri Taylor~  
Viewing from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM

~St. Thomas Gospel Rehearsal~  
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

### **Thursday, April 24th**

~The Funeral of Ralph Marshall~  
Viewing from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Requiem Mass at 11:00 AM

### **Friday, April 25th**

~Retired Person Ministry/Senior Partners~  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Undercroft

### **Saturday, April 29th**

~Scout Troop #133 meeting~  
1:00 - 4:00 PM in Anderson Hall



## SAVE THE DATE!!!

St. Thomas Men are Cooking - May 4th  
Have you gotten your tickets yet?

Chefs! Get your recipes ready! The Men's Fellowship will be outside the church to sign up chefs for the event and recipes for the cookbook. Please email

Dr. Tim Barksdale, [tim.barksdale@merakey.org](mailto:tim.barksdale@merakey.org), your recipes by email for the cookbook. Sorry, please do not send screenshots. Tickets are \$20.00 and will be on sale after service outside church.



***The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
Presents***

### ***St. Thomas Men Are Cooking***

**The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, Rector  
The Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans, Associate to the Rector**

Calling All Men to Prepare and Serve your Favorite Dish(es) and  
to forward your recipe for the cookbook to be available close to the event  
Email Recipes to Cookbook Editor & Event Organizer: Dr. Tim Barksdale :  
[Tim.Barksdale@Merakey.org](mailto:Tim.Barksdale@Merakey.org)

#### **\$20.00 includes:**

- Delicious Food, Dessert & Drinks
- Indoor & Outdoor Seating
- Table Service for Those in Need
- Door Prizes & Give-aways
- \$10.00 for those under 12 years
- Free for toddlers



**Sunday, May 4th, 2025, Immediately after service**

**AECST Anderson Hall, 6361 Lancaster Ave. Phila. PA 19151**

For More Information Contact  
ED Geiger: 716-207-0405  
Andrew Dumas: 917-325-4434

Get Tickets from  
The Men's Ministry & Fellowship,  
Edward Geiger, President

## **ANNOUNCING THE 2025 “MEN ARE COOKING” CHEFS OF ST. THOMAS!!!**

Fr. Martini Shaw  
Fr. Daren Evans  
Michael Archey  
Dr. Tim Barksdale  
Dr. Massimo Baudo  
Guy Booth  
Ricardo Bostic  
Paige Bowser, Jr.  
Howard Chapman  
Carl Dean  
Dr. Rollo Dilworth  
Andrew Dumas  
Bill Edmonds  
Larry Farmbry  
Norman Frank  
Barry Frye  
John Maxwell  
Brian Wilson  
Dr. Jonathan Wilson, Jr.  
Edgar WiseEd Geiger  
Eugene Golson  
Dr. Derek Griffith  
Tyrone Gunby

Dennis Hall  
Dr. Walter Harris  
Thomas Harris  
Gregory Hayes  
Maurice Hayes  
Quentin Heyward  
Ashley Hines  
Donald Hunt  
Kelvin Johnson  
John Kortue  
Thomas Lynch  
Michael McIntosh  
Stephen Pugh  
Eugene Phillips  
Dr. Reginald Royster  
Edwin Santana  
Irving Stevenson  
Bobby Tillman  
Harold Townsend  
Arnott Trotman  
Justin Trotman  
Joe Wells  
Seth Williams



# Blue Note

## A Jazz Concert

Presented by The Marian Anderson Museum

**WHEN: SATURDAY  
APRIL 26TH 2025**

**TIME: 3PM**

**WHERE: THE SETTLEMENT  
MUSIC SCHOOL BUILDING THEATER  
416 QUEEN STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147**

**ADMISSION: \$30.00**

The Marian Anderson Museum invites you to join us as we kick off our 2025 performance season with a nod to our great Marian Andersons exposure to fellow artists and contemporaries in the 1920's during the Harlem Renaissance when she gave performances and logged at the YMCA and YWCA in New York and Philadelphia. Though Marian Anderson performed Classically, she was inspired by fellow artists that she witnessed and would eventually befriend. You will experience an afternoon of rare Jazz Pieces Vocally and Instrumentally that haven't often had the spotlight.

For more information call our office today or visit our website  
[www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com](http://www.marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com)  
215-779-4219





# HEROES' SUNDAY

MAY 18, 2025 10:00 AM

Philadelphia Fire Commissioner  
**JEFFREY THOMPSON, GUEST SPEAKER**



**ALL first responders are invited to attend!**

- \* All First Responders are encouraged to arrive by 9:45, attend in uniform and proceed into church together.
- \* There will be a reception with light refreshments in the church hall immediately following mass.
- \* For More Information Please Contact: Seth Williams  
[Seth@SecondChanceStrategies.Net](mailto:Seth@SecondChanceStrategies.Net)

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[WWW.AECST.ORG](http://WWW.AECST.ORG) • [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792)



## **The St. Thomas Chancel Choir is growing!!**

We are seeking to purchase new choir robes and scapulas. Are you a seamstress? Do you know of someone who makes choir robes? Is there a black owned company that makes church choir robes? We would appreciate any information that you may have. Our congregation is a vast network of amazing people. If you have any information that can help, please email Jay Fluellen at [chancelchoir@aecst.org](mailto:chancelchoir@aecst.org).

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## **THE ST. THOMAS WOMEN'S MINISTRY presents**

### **A Weekend Celebration of Women**

**Saturday, May 31st**

Women's Wellness Retreat

Get your Retreat Tickets Today!

**Sunday, June 1st**

Annual Women's Day Celebration

Includes: Mindfulness Wellness and Inspiring Speakers,  
Creative Expressions Workshops, Healing Drum Circle,  
Continental Breakfast, Delicious Lunch, and more!

You don't want to miss it!



The Women's Ministry Presents

# **The St. Thomas Women's Weekend**

**Saturday, May 31 - Sunday, June 1, 2025**

# **REVIVE. RESTORE. RENEW.**

## **FINDING STRENGTH IN FAITH**

### **WOMEN'S WELLNESS RETREAT**

**Saturday, May 31, 2025 | 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas**

#### **FEATURED SPEAKERS:**

**~Karen Taylor Bass~**

Certified yoga instructor, mediation coach, wellness trainer, author, Radio Show Host

**~The Reverend Canon Toneh Smyth~**

Canon for Missions of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

**~AND MORE~**

#### **FEATURED WELLNESS RETREAT EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:**

**Creative Expressions workshops | Get your Affairs in Order**

**Mindful Meditation | Closing Drum Circle**

**Tickets: \$50 per person**

**Checks payable to: St. Thomas Women's Ministry - Memo: Women's Retreat**

**Cash App payments: \$46DBM | Memo: Women's Retreat | GIVI App Memo: Women's Retreat**

**For more information, contact Deborah Matthews | email: [debmadanco@verizon.net](mailto:debmadanco@verizon.net)**

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## **AECST HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS**

### **The Female Heart: Navigating Hormones, Menopause, Cholesterol and Weight Loss Drugs**

Healthy Living: The Mainline Health Newsletter of Community Health & Outreach - Spring 2025  
Lots of good information. Here is the [newsletter](#).

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### **Mindspring Mental Health Virtual Events for April**

The Mindspring Mental Health Alliance is a non-profit organization that provides no-cost mental health education, support, and advocacy programs to community members.

Here is the list of [virtual events](#) offered in April.

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### **ATTENTION AECST STUDENTS:**

The Jesse F. Anderson Sr. Scholarship Fund is offering the St. Thomas Book Awards for graduating high school seniors who are members of the African Episcopal Church of St.

Thomas (AECST) and plan to attend a school of higher learning in Fall 2025. Additionally, applications are available for AECST members enrolled in a full-time graduate program. The application deadline is May 12, 2025.

For more information contact [Paula Lamb](#) (High School Seniors) or [Diana Hutchins](#) (Graduate Students) or [Thomasina Hack](#).

## **CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE**

May is a critical month. Here's what you need to know:

### **May 5th - DEADLINE**

to register to vote in the PA Primary Election.

Register someone today. Please see one of the ministry co-chairs [Wendella Fox and Elaine Gillison] if you are interested in volunteering to register newly naturalized citizens.

### **May 7th - REAL ID becomes a real thing!!**

Regulations to fly domestically and entrance to federal and military facilities will require a passport or driver's license or state issued ID with a Star! Check your documents and get your REAL ID as soon as possible.

### **May 20th - PA Primary Election Day**

Polls open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Don't waste your opportunity to vote. Remember to vote and take a neighbor, friend, or family member with you.

**VOTING IS YOUR SUPERPOWER!**

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## **ALTAR FLOWERS**



### **EASTER FLOWERS AND LILIES**

Your gift of an Easter Lily will help beautify the church and will be a beautiful tribute to your loved ones, or a token of Thanksgiving for a blessing received. The list of donated lilies can be found [here](#).

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman.  
(Please do not place in the collection plate or give to the church office. Thank you)

High Altar - \$60  
Absalom Jones Altar - \$50  
the Columbarium - \$40

Please use the QR Code below to order flowers or contribute to our church ministries.



**Congratulations Landon!**  
**Your St. Thomas family is so proud of you.**





**DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS**  
**READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY**  
**Resurrection Sunday**  
**April 20, 2025**

The First Lesson - [Acts 10:34-43](#)  
[Psalms 118:1-2,14-24](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 Corinthians 15:19-26](#)

The Holy Gospel - [John 20:1-18](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for  
the week of April 21, 2025**

Monday - [Matthew 28:9-15](#)

Tuesday - [John 20:11-18](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 24:13-35](#)

Thursday - [Luke 24:36b-48](#)

Friday - [John 21:1-14](#)

Saturday - [Mark 16:9-15,20](#)



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**PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY**  
**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**  
with Fr. Jay meet on Tuesdays  
7:00 PM via Zoom.  
Please contact [Fr. Jay](#) with  
questions/requests.

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**WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY**  
with Fr. Daren will resume in the AJ House on  
**April 30th at 6:00 PM.**  
Our Spring study will be a  
"Journey through the Book of Revelation."

## TINY TIKES TOT AREA

Basic items for the Tiny Tykes Tot area have been identified and ordered! Basic items that were ordered are arriving. Soon our little Saints will have an area where they can take their parents. Keep your ear to the ground for a special announcement and your eyes out for a sneak preview. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) if you have questions.

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### ATTENTION: ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ST. THOMAS

Please know that your church family is here to support you during your years of academic studies. Please [email](#) Fr. Daren your contact information as soon as possible (including cellphone). Our prayers remain with you.

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### A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND INDIVIDUALS:

**ANY** and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: [Gladycy DuBrey](#) (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.





## **CALLING ALL DANCERS!!!!**

Opportunity awaits if you want to praise the Lord in dance and worship. The “Angels in Motion” dance ministry, a multi-generational ministry welcomes all ages, and skill levels in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, [Pamela Johnson.](#)



## **VERGERS NEEDED!**

Are you being called to this exciting ministry?  
Want to know more about what a Verger does?

The Verger Guide may be found [here](#)

Please speak with Karen Ragland or  
the Rector for more details.

## **CHAT AND CHEW**

Have you ever considered hosting a Chat and Chew following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received or in memory of a departed loved one? Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the church office for further details.

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### **GFS Holiday House is in Jeopardy!**

In the early morning hours, on January 26, 2025, notification arrived that the frigid cold weather caused a pipe to burst in our beloved summer retreat center, Holiday House. The water damage is beyond extensive and travels from the third floor down to the first floor. Built in 1870's, this is the last of 30 Holiday Houses in existence. It has offered shelter and housing to immigrant women, a retreat center for girls and women, and a place where summer memories were made and friendship cured.

This historic retreat center holds a special place in the hearts of St. Thomas GFS members. There is a room dedicated to Julia Porter, our first Branch Advisor. We need your help. Are you good at researching grants? Can you write a proposal? Do you have the acumen for gross fundraising? Can you provide a monetary donation? Please contact Nikkol Simms, Branch Advisor, if you can assist.

**“Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2 (GFS Motto)**



## RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

- to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.
- to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office.
- to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).
- to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office to sign up.
- to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service. Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the office if you are interested.
- as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) if you are interested.
- **Photography Ministry** is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).
- **The Shepherds Ministry** is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).



## ST. THOMAS PODCAST

Stay tuned! Our podcast will soon return. In the meantime, please enjoy the three previous episodes. If you would like to be a guest on any of the podcasts, please speak with Fr. Daren or [email](#) him for more information.

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## ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES

Rehearsals are EACH SUNDAY immediately following service. For more information, please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

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On **Sunday, April 27**, immediately after service at their regular meeting, the young adults will discuss the topic: **Christian Dating as a Young Adult**. This conversation will be facilitated by our own Dr. Tim Barksdale.

## **CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED**

Are you willing to serve, at least one Sunday per month, as a church school teacher? Please prayerfully consider this call. We are especially looking for young adults, men, and anyone who loves children. Please use this [link](#) to register to become a church school teacher.

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## **IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR**

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW but also as the church of TODAY!!! We embrace and celebrate our youth. If you have children in your family or neighborhood, please invite or bring them to be a part of our amazing Church School program. When was the last time you invited someone to church?

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## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

Do you feel called to work with Youth? Do you have great ideas that will help the church to connect with the youth of today (and vice versa)? You are invited to be a part of our parish Youth Council. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.

## **YOUNG ADULT GATHERING**

All young adults (those in their 20's and 30's) are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

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## **GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY**

All young ladies are invited to join us on Saturdays in the Undercroft at 11:00 AM.

**The Girls' Friendly Society does not meet every Saturday.**

Please contact [Nikkol Simms](#) for more information and the schedule.

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## **DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?**

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

## CALLING FOR YOUTH ACOLYTES!



Calling all youth! You are needed to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with [Fr. Daren.](#)

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**Scout Troop #133** - Our Cub Scout Program is open to children grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at **2:00 PM on Saturdays.**

Our Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program meets at **3:00 PM on Saturdays.**

Please contact Scout [Master Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

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## **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:**

### **IN LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES:**

Helena Allen - Simpson House;  
Linda Holmes and Leotta Griffith - Saunders House;  
Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of Cherry Hill;  
Inez Turner - The Residence at Bala Cynwyd;  
Ola Bass - The Pinnacle at Plymouth Meeting;  
Ridart "Butch" Farmer- Centennial Healthcare and  
Rehabilitation Center; Patricia Holmes - 62nd Street Nursing Home;  
Elizabeth Trulear - Riddle Village Retirement Community

### **AT HOME:**

Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson,  
Patricia Ellison, Barbara Douglas, Mary Ann Jones,  
Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Quincina Edmonds,  
Solomon Cropper, Sharon Harper, Donald Hunt, Sr.,  
Verger Stephen Hannum, Marie Golson, Virginia DuBrey

### **KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Lisa Woodley, Adinah  
Edwards, Ann Stewart, Waltier Blocker, Arlene Gray,  
Daryn Stewart, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway,  
Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Sydnor

### **WE PRAY FOR**

those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as  
those affected by their actions.



## **HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?**

**“To whom much is given, much is required.” -Luke 12:48**

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways, your time, your talent or your treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God's children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasures. Prayerfully consider donating to one or all of the special requests below.

### **FAITHFUL GIVING CARD (PLEDGE)**

Please pray for your Faithful Giving for 2025.

You'll be able to complete your [Faithful Giving Card](#) on the [church website](#), or by using the paper Faithful Giving Card. Strong support is needed to meet the budget, our many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. Your Faithful Giving Card can also be placed in the Alms Basin or mailed to the church office.

**THE BUILDING FUND ENVELOPES** have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. If you've already picked your offering envelopes up, please pick up your Building Fund envelopes. You can also do your Building Fund offering [online](#). Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month.

Thank you.

## **CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND**

If you are actively contributing, thank you! Your gifts are truly appreciated. Everyone is asked to make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. The Building Fund Envelopes are located in Anderson Hall beside the Offering envelopes. When using electronic payments select "Building Fund." If using checks write "Building Fund" on the memo line of your check.

## **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

The church has received many "undeliverable" mailings. If you have moved, please update your mailing address with the church office by [email](#) or phone 215-473-3065.

Can you help deliver offertory envelopes to our sick and shut-in parishioners? If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you would bring their envelopes to them. A list of our sick and shut-in parishioners is located next to the offertory envelopes in Anderson Hall.

**IMPORTANT:** Make sure your name, envelope #, and amount are included on the front of your offering envelope. This is critical for bookkeeping accuracy. Help is just an email away. Contact [Patricia Lynch](#).

## **RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST**

\$100,000.00. Our air conditioning units have provided over 30 years of comfort. They are now in need of being replaced. Please prayerfully consider donating toward the replacement and use the [link](#) provided. Thank you to those who have already given toward the new air-conditioning units.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, use the QR code, website donations, download the Givi app, U.S. Mail or hand deliver it to the fiscal office.



**The African Episcopal  
Church of St. Thomas |  
Abou...**

[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)



## WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”. II Corinthians 9:7

1) **Sunday Offering Plate**

2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.

Please use the following address:

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
c/o Fiscal Administrator, 6361 Lancaster Avenue,  
(Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151

3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and nor an account, it's easy to obtain. Please download the Givi app, (**givi IOS App**) for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or (**givi Android App**) for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.

4) **Bring your check** directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours ( Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM) **After business hours**, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.

5) **Church Website - [Online Giving](#)**

Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc. **NOTE:** Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St.Thomas when filling out your online giving information.

6) **Faithful Giving Cards (Pledge)** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the **[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**. Thank you so much to all who have return them.

## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to the Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administrator	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGillberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq.	jtucker@tlgattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq   Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Patricia Lynch	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney   Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	1792@aecst.org
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

## THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye  
Clerk of the Vestry - Pamela Johnson | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.  
Stewardship Chair - Patricia Lynch | Property Chair - William Burke

Dr. Tim Barksdale	Clare Mae Daniels	Kelvin Johnson
Judith Simkins Booth	Eugene Golson	Monica Lewis Jones
Deadra Cannon	Marie B. Golson	Deborah Matthews

## THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Brenda Best	Mary Sandra Dean	Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Conchetta Brewer	Elaine Gillison	Darryle (Bobby) Tillman
Sharon Bullock	D. Lynn Joell	Judy Tillman
Ronnie Collins	Cynthia Muse	

## DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq. | Dr. Cassandra Ruffin | Alternate: Tyrone Keller

## DELEGATES TO THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY

Phyllis Cater | Mary Dean | Alternate: Tyrone Keller